WHO ARE THE GODS

UNCANNY AVENGERS

MARVEL

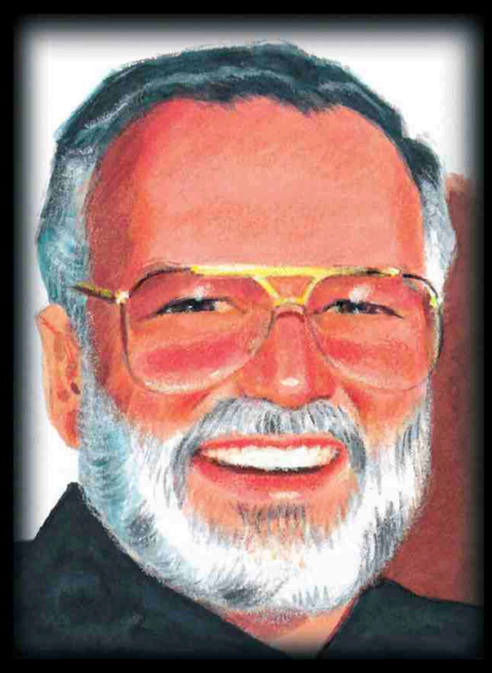
FALL OF X

001

DUGGAN
GARRÓN
HOLLOWELL

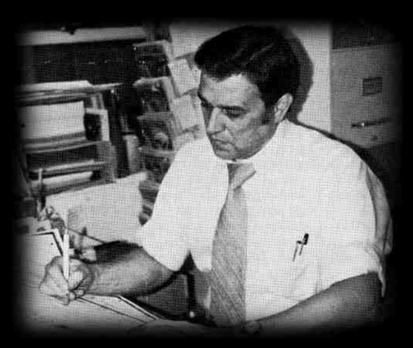
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

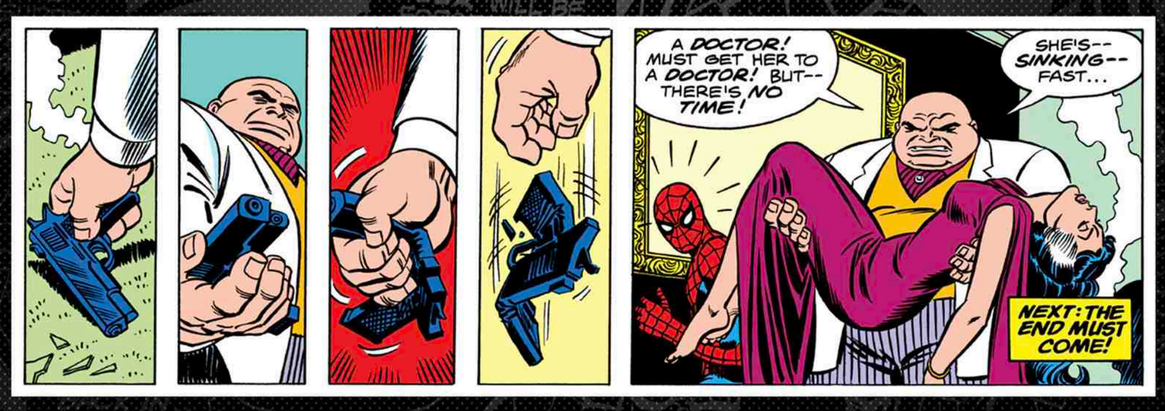
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

Not long ago.

This way, M.O.D.O.K.

You have a wonderful lair, Doctor Stasis, but why aren't we using the lights?

FLK

Because our friend's eyes haven't adjusted yet.

I think so, yes. He's going to get his hands dirty, and a little deniability goes a long way. Success is not assured.

Good. He's awake, and vitals are strong.

Are you sure he's necessary?

Hello there.

This must be disorienting for you.

My name is Dr. Stasis. This is M.O.D.O.K. We've combined our considerable intellects to correct a terrible mistake.

The world has changed since you've been gone. It's worse, of course. But we're making it better. And we want to enlist you to our cause.

America has gone downhill, and I'm glad you're sitting down, because I have some terrible news: The mutants have formed their own country.

We are members of Orchis, the humble servants of humanity, filling the void in law and order since S.H.I.E.L.D.'s demise.

The day is fast approaching when we will wipe the mutants off the face of the Earth at their state function on the summer solstice.

It will be messy. We will need to "manage" the survivors and public opinion.

We won't rest until a new world order is cemented...in *mankind's* image.

And we could use a few good men. So blink twice if--

Ah!

SKRASHK

We'll take that as a "yes."

Brace yourself, friend-- the world is in need of your power.

Let's get this man a uniform.

I think I know *just* the one to use...

FALL OF X

To foster unity between humanity and the mutant nation of Krakoa, Earth's mightiest heroes, the Avengers, and the mutant X-Men formed a single team to help defend the Earth. Together they are the…

[fall__of]
[_____X]

LUNAR AVENGERS

01

"TRUTH & JUSTICE"

Mutantkind is more endangered than ever before. The anti-mutant organization **Orchis** attacked the Hellfire Gala and issued an ultimatum: For every mutant found on the planet, Orchis will annihilate increasing numbers of humans. With no other choice, **Charles Xavier** psychically banished all mutants from Earth; only a handful with training were able to resist his telepathic command.

The mysterious mutant **Captain Krakoa** launched an attack on the U.S. government. **Captain America** set out to intercept him but was in turn attacked by Orchis agents and then rescued by the mutant **Rogue**.

And a new breed of **Stark Sentinels** are on the hunt for mutants...

1__[PSYLOCKE]
2__[PENANCE]
3__[CAPTAIN AMERICA]
4__[DEADPOOL]
5__[QUICKSILVER]
6__[ROGUE]

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Avengers created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

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E.S.U. Professor Gill injured in attack. Wife denies involvement

Mutants Launch Simultaneous Attacks At Hellfire Gala & Washington, DC

DAILY BUGLE

MUTANT MASSACRE!

It's been *weeks* since this Captain Krakoa attacked Washington, DC...

...and the times we're living through have only gotten more interesting, unfortunately.

My name is Ben Urich, and I'm a reporter.

DAILY BUGLE

I don't care what my résumé says my job actually is right now. I'm the owner of the *Daily Bugle*, but my job is reporter.

The mutants banded together and formed a nation. The announcement was heard around the world.

They grew medicines to treat diseases of the mind...

...and it turns out that those drugs have been tainted.

If you believe Orchis, a hodgepodge of questionable characters, the mutants are to blame. And maybe that's true. Maybe not.

Me? Well, I haven't made up my mind yet. I don't have all the facts. But I will.

What is true is that the X-Men had their own symbol of a nation. It was Cyclops, operating under the name Captain Krakoa.

And I find it hard to believe that's the same man...

Thanks ORCHIS for SLAMMING THIS DOOR SHUT!

...who committed a vicious act of terrorism in Washington, DC.* If Captain Krakoa is a false-flag operation...

*As we saw in *FCBD: Uncanny Avengers*. --Tom

...it's *working.* Fear of Krakoa, and mutants in general, has never been higher.

And Orchis has set their aims higher still.

Most of the mutants walked through their magic plant gates and haven't been seen since. Orchis has been rounding up the ones who didn't leave and deporting them to Mars, where a divergent line of mutants has taken up residence.

I find keeping up with my own planet's politics exhausting, but evidently, there's a civil war raging up there and their fates are very much tenuous.

One thing is for sure. One way or another, there are a lot of people who need to face justice...

...and a lot of dead folks who need to be avenged.

It's gonna be a big story. Luckily, I've got a friendly source on the inside.

Orchis Filtration Center.
Kansas City, MO. Now.

Anyone not willing to take Orchis' mutant-inhibitor injection-- your one-way ticket is ready!

Keep your head down and keep moving.

In a moment, anyone who wishes to run may do so. Do not return to your homes.

Hey! Hey!

Keep it moving, lady!

Looks like somebody needs some *motivation.*

SWIK

ughnn...

...axckx...

That was my signal, by the way.

If you're staying-- you're fighting.

Psylocke was trained by the Hand to be an assassin. Until the "Mutant Massacre," she served as a Great Captain of Krakoa, charged with the nation's defense.

She'll never forgive herself for the fall of Krakoa, but it wasn't her fault. The assault was a brilliantly executed trap with a flawless propaganda component.

Kwannon's mutant gift was a "psychic" knife, but she rarely used it...

...and instead opted for more lethal tools.

In the weeks following the attack, she hid by day, and at night, she shared the darkness within her with the fascists who had nearly exterminated her people.

She cut and ran and hid and was always long gone before the new Sentinels packing Iron Man's technology arrived.

It's a dead end!

Monet St. Croix, A.K.A. Penance, was her partner. They were among a small number of mutants who had been tactically trained.

All right, everybody--while my partner Psylocke does her daily exercise regimen, *run for your lives! Do not return to your homes!*

Both were failed warriors who had decided to go out cutting as much as they could. They accepted their fate...

...and were content to kill as many of them as possible as they went.

CRACK

WHAM

There were children on that island--

--so many children!

When she had a moment to spare, Psylocke made them feel the pain they had caused.

It was self-care for the assassin.

She knew that one night, she'd be challenged...

...by metal she could not cut.

That night was *tonight.*

Easy, Psylocke.

KERCHONG

Why am I not surprised?

The great Captain America, protecting the oppressors of mutants.

Let's make it a fair fight. Where are the rest of the Avengers?

YOU.

Well, actually--

WABANG

Aargh!

--that's what I wanted to talk to you and Penance about.

I have a little bit of experience fighting fascism.

It took me a couple of nights to get a bead on you, but if I can--so can Orchis.

Our enemy is way ahead of us, and we need to get caught up fast.

And I think, given the terrible events of the past few weeks, the world could use an example of unity.

Was hoping you both would enlist in my new Avengers team.

I'm in his mind as much as he'll let me--it's not a trap.

I don't think I can stand any lectures about my methods. They killed hundreds of thousands of mutants.

Then avenge them.

Charges are set, Cap.

I believe you know Deadpool and Quicksilver.

I ran as many of the mutants as I could to the Canadian border.

Kwannon, I want to change my vote. We can always--

--quit if they go soft.

Okay, we're in.

Bogeys are incoming. Gotta move.

I want to stay close to the anti-mutant rally in DC tonight--

--it might prove to be too tempting a target for "Captain Krakoa."

Let's make a quiet exit for now--those Sentinels are a problem.

Is someone going to do something about them?

Stark is on it, but the solution needs to be engineered, and he needs some time.

Maybe we'll get some good news at our meeting later.

I'm going to continue my scouting of the Orchis defenses. I should have North America fully mapped soon!

Deadpool to Sugah. Come in, Sugah.

The "Rogers Family Adventurers" have two more stabby friends, and we're oscar mike to our secret home base that is totally not a mansion outside New York in case anyone is listening.

Don't "sugah" me, Wade.

That's my favorite Whitesnake song. Over.

Ah ain't in the mood.

...I'm just seeing how close Ah can get to Orchis' gulag before Ah set off their alarms.

Oh @&#$!

Turns out it's about two hundred meters.

We mutants are gonna need some ways 'a blendin' in, Ah think.

The X-Men's former jet, the *Thunderbird*, streaks across the southern Pacific Ocean.

We're over Krakoa now...

...I wish we could go home.

It's too dangerous to go home.

This is why we fight, Blob.

It's up to us now. The new Brotherhood.

You and Wildside take the *Thunderbird* to a higher altitude and wait.

I want to check the island's prison and see if there're any more soldiers for our cause.

If I trip any alarms, return to base and I'll make it back in my own time.

Captain Krakoa has been telling a lot of lies. One was that he was invisible to the Stark Sentinels that patrolled Krakoa.

He'd lied about everything, even his name.

Blob thought he was Cyclops. Wildside didn't care. He just wanted to kill.

Both were Captain Krakoa's useful idiots.

SKRAK

The Pit under the Quiet Council chamber was where the mutants hid the worst of their kind. The soldier was looking for a particular duo.

Decide right now. Come with me, or stay here and fight the humans intent on exterminating you.

You both come from a great family.

Baron Von Strucker shook the world. And now the world must move again.

Will Andrea and Andreas, his fine, mutant children, join my crusade?

Fenris will proudly fight alongside you... Cyclops.

That name is dead.

I'm *Captain Krakoa* now...and forever.

Isn't anybody going to help me up?

In Manhattan, an opposing force was being gathered by a very different soldier.

Steve Rogers was a born leader, and he learned long ago that misfits could be tempered into the finest soldiers.

Grand Central - 42 Street Station

4 5 6 7 S

Elevator at 42 Street & Park Av

Enter with or buy a MetroCard at all times or see agent at 42 street & Park Avenue

Deadpool would have fit right in among the Howling Commandos... even if he would have annoyed them morning, noon and night.

Captain America had redeemed Deadpool once on the Avengers Unity Squad, and it had cost Wade Wilson everything during the rise of a Secret Empire.

OUT OF SERVIC

Rogers was not to blame, but he felt he owed Deadpool another chance on the Unity Squad for following his doppelganger blindly into destruction.

With the recruitment of Psylocke and Penance, the team was complete, if not ready for the challenges ahead.

The old Morlock tunnels snaked under Manhattan. They were once home to the mutants who had no place in the surface world. Now they are the refuge of the remaining X-Men.

Uh. So, just how hard is Tony Stark fighting the forces of evil?

The glass is filled with ginger ale. I'm playing possum while Orchis watches me like a hawk.

I'm working every waking minute on a solution to the Sentinels. I'm sure you all have met my personal assistant, Hazel Kendal.

There's no need for this Hazel Kendal charade down here. You all know who I am.

White Queen? More like Undercover Boss Emma Frost.

I thought the X-Men were meeting us.

They're here.

You can come on out. You weren't followed. It's the real reason I was recruited, right?

The Avengers have always been a little light in the telepathic department. Hello, Shadowkat.

I thought it was time you met Rasputin. She'll be leading the assault on Nimrod.

Humans.

She's from the future! And she won't tell me anything about it!

Let's just be glad there *is* a future, Ms. Marvel.

This inhibitor ring prevents my gifts from being detected up on the surface by the Sentinels--but I don't need them to know that someone is approaching *fast.*

Cap! Your hunch was right. I think I found our targets.

Sorry to cut this short--we'll keep our eyes on the dead drops if you need us. Unity Squad--on me!

I still think "Avenging X-Men" sounds better than "Unity Squad," and if we're not gonna use it, *somebody* sh--

--sshhhould!

Quicksilver was the fastest man alive. He'd suffered a couple of hard years. First, he and his sister discovered they weren't really the children of Magneto. They were not mutants, and Krakoa was not for them.

Then, before he could reconcile with Magneto, the master of magnetism was killed in action on Arakko.

Watch the hands.

Need a tight grip, or you're going to wind up with road rash.

Pietro found purpose in his service as an Avenger. He was further proof that Rogers' reclamation of misfits was a worthwhile endeavor.

Where are we headed?

You were right-- they're after atomic weapons.

Whoever you are--your attacks have become predictable, "Captain Krakoa." God only knows what you'd have done if we weren't here to stop you.

An', Blob, how are you standing next to *him*?!

You don't get to question my company, Rogue--not when you're standing next to that star-spangled fascist! America supports Orchis!

You never cared about Krakoa. Well, we do!

We're the NEW MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT!

Listen to me, Wildside-- you have one chance to surrender. After that--

Shut up and stay out of my head!

I'll have that armor, murderer.

You can have it--

--if you're still alive when I'm done!

Shall we, Andrea?

Let's, Andreas.

Let's start with Deadpool--

--he's always so annoying.

FAZEEM

Aargh!

=Sigh= I *just* washed this uniform.

Dammit, Fred! You're fighting this war all wrong!

Disguising yourself in the uniform of your enemy is a violation of the Geneva Conventions.

KERCHONG

KRONG

Now let's see who you really are under that mask!

I'm the fighting symbol of my nation, Rogers.

Ughn!

The Krakoan battle suit was designed to amplify the strength of ordinary noncombatants, giving them an edge during an extinction-level event.

Whoever this new Captain Krakoa was--he was much stronger than an ordinary human.

Tsk.

Your attacks are so obvious and predictable--

--allow me to ***break*** you of that habit.

KRAK

Aaargh!

NEXT:

NEW AVENGERS!

PAID OP-ED TO BE RUN ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS:

Earlier today in New York City, one of Orchis' new guardians of humanity, the Sentinel, was assisting the NY Fire Department when it was attacked by the X-Men.

These wondrous new machines are a collaboration between Orchis and Stark Unlimited, and today, it saved the lives of two firefighters who were at risk of death due to a partial roof collapse. The Sentinel was ultimately destroyed by the Krakoan outlaws because we programmed it to be deferential to the protection of human lives -- at all times.

Rather than defend our property in a protracted battle against mutants in a crowded urban setting, we decided to allow the X-Men to have their "fun" in vandalizing a billion-dollar Iron Man suit designed to preserve human lives.

What care do the X-Men have for life and death? If they die, they are restored by the cult on their island. We humans have but one life to live, and we want to live in peaceful coexistence, but the continued aggression of those suffering from the X-Gene are making that very difficult. We've had wave after wave of violence and even political assassinations.

Tomorrow, New York City will awake and have one less Sentinel to help protect us from the tremendous and terrifying threats we face every day. Please ask yourself this question:

Why do the X-Men hate and fear the basic defensive tools with which we humans seek to protect ourselves?

Despite what the mutants say, their "resurrection" is for them, not us. That is a fact.

Orchis is a collective of hardworking men and women who have stepped up to fill the gap after the dissolution of S.H.I.E.L.D. because how can we not be concerned by the idea of an ethnic nation state that is free to move about the world without any customs or border controls? They are proud of their inhumanity, and that doesn't sit well in my mind.

We've been at a crisis since the moment that mutant zealot Charles Xavier intruded into the most sacred place a human being has -- *into our very minds.* Sovereignty over one's body must include who we invite into our thoughts. Xavier barged into our brains not to save us, but to threaten anyone who dared to question the validity of his undemocratic oligarchy.

A frightening question must be asked of our mutant "friends." If a single powerful telepath can reach across the globe and hammer his thoughts into the heads of everyone alive -- what could that telepath do if, say, he just wanted to control his fellow mutants? Surely not all mutants are bad, but surely some are, and it's long past time for humanity to protect itself from a powerful minority that has yet to prove its willingness to coexist with us.

Nothing would make me happier than to one day, far in the future with my grandson on my knee, look back on this editorial with some embarrassment for misjudging the mutants of Krakoa.

In the meantime, we must continue to prepare to put humanity first in these difficult and disruptive times.

In Genetic Solidarity,

Dr. Stasis
Orchis Director of Human Resources

P.S. We're hiring! Visit our website if you think you've got what it takes to protect humanity.

The House of Ranks and Numbers.
Home of the Centum.

Subject appears to be the same as the others. Multiversal. Possible refugee?

Long-lived. Biology suggests an evolution parallel with this universe's Eternals.

Either way, the pattern is the same...

The subject is a carrier.

What do you want to do, Ninetyseven?

Sigh.

The same as with the others. Tag it. Check the resonance...

...and as soon as possible, let's find out why someone is smuggling tesseracts to this Earth.

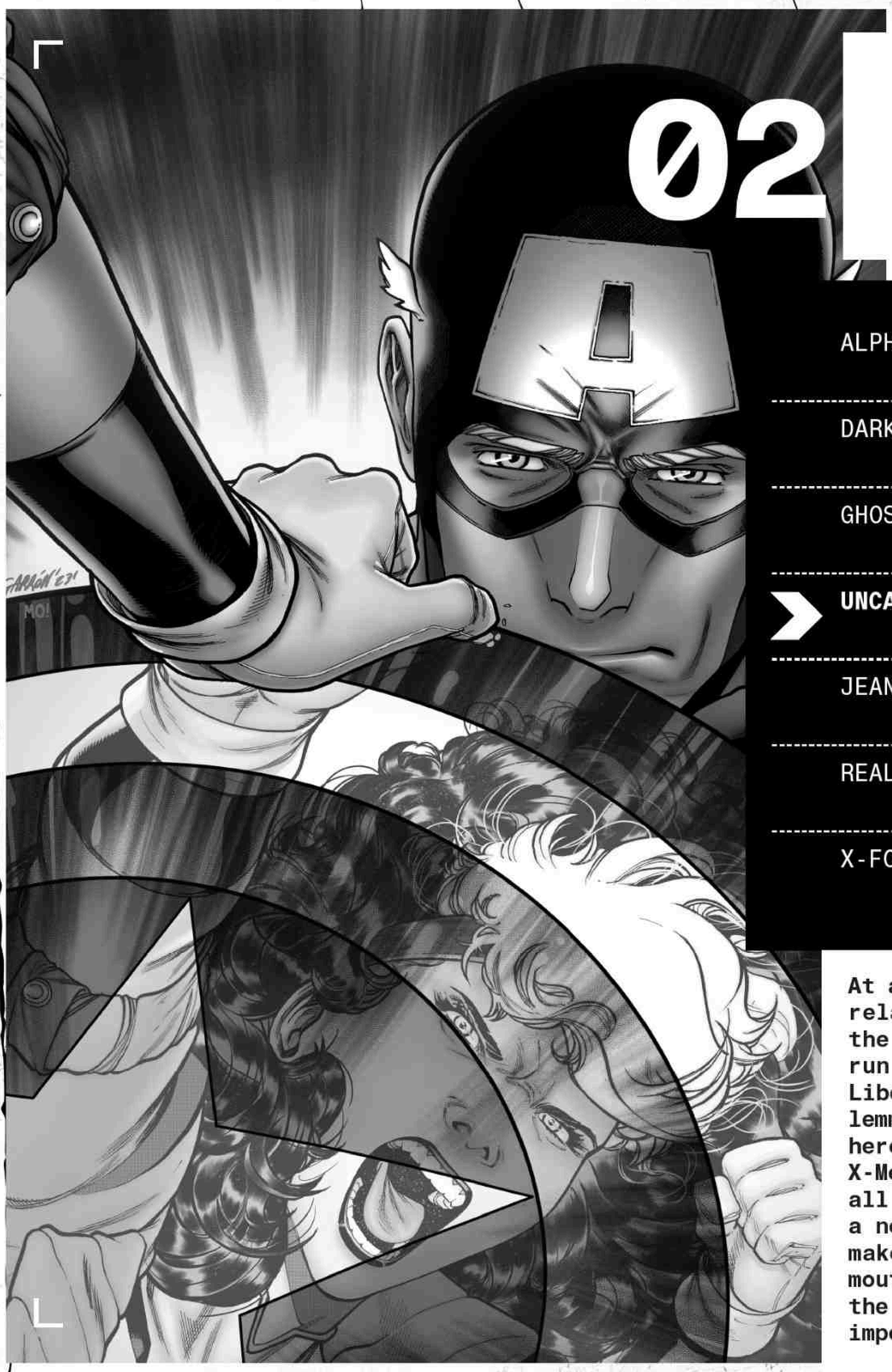
GODS

rAkoA is for all

MUTANTS

[fall__of]
[_____X]

FOLLOW THE FALL:



ALPHA FLIGHT #1:

DARK X-MEN #1:

GHOST RIDER #17:

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1:

JEAN GREY #1:

REALM OF X #1:

X-FORCE #43:

At a time when mutant and human relations are in the toilet, the Uncanny Avengers have run smack into a new Mutant Liberation Front, and, folks, lemme tell you--the M.L.F. came here to beat up Avengers and X-Men and chew gum, and they're all outta gum. Wake up, babe, a new romance hits that will make readers froth at the mouth. Plus, Ben Urich. Always the mark of a quality and important Marvel Comic. FOOM!

[avengers__01]
[01_____x_men]

[fall__of]
[_____X]

Uncanny Avengers Assemble! Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "Okay to Print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH